GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1442
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
EXCAVTION IN CHANDRAKETUGARH
Zahedi Shri Mahboob

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly a century after the archaeological site was discovered at chandraketugarh in north 24 parganas of West Bengal, it remains an enigma to historians;

(b) if so, whether bricks and potteries dating back to second century BC were found during subsequent excavations;

(c) if so, whether the site has been lying in neglect and was recently in the eye of a storm when a cellular firm dug up the area to erect a telecommunication tower;

(d) if so, whether the Government would like to go in for a study to explain the development of artistic tradition, who were the people represented in the terracotta figures, what are the purpose of the objects and how do these relate to major art styles in other parts of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) No, Sir. The archaeological site of Chandraketugarh in District 24 Parganas (North), West Bengal, is not an enigma to historians. Excavations here revealed an early urban settlement datable to circa 6th -5th century B.C.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The site is not in a neglected condition. The unauthorized digging that had just started at the site was immediately stopped. No damage was done to the site.

(d) & (e) Several publications in Bengali and English are already available on the subject. Notable amongst them are:

1. Descriptive list of Sculptures & Coins in the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad;

2. Proceedings of Indian History Congress;

3. Lalit Kala;

4. Studies in Museum and Museology;

5. Archaeology of Eastern India: New Perspectives;

6. Chandraketugarh: and

7 Garh Chandraketur Katha (in Bengali).

The Government have no plans to carry out any separate study.